

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1-3. (canceled)

4. (previously presented) An isolated nucleic acid molecule consisting of a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a nucleotide sequence that encodes a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2;

(b) a nucleotide sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO:1;

(c) a nucleotide sequence consisting of SEQ ID NO:3; and

(d) a nucleotide sequence that is completely complementary to a nucleotide sequence of (a)-(c).

5-7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) An isolated in vitro nucleic acid vector comprising a nucleic acid molecule of claim 4.

9. (currently amended) An isolated in vitro host cell containing the vector of claim 8.

10-12. (canceled)

13. (withdrawn) A method for detecting the presence of a nucleic acid molecule of claim 4 in a sample, said method comprising

contacting the sample with an oligonucleotide comprising at least 20 contiguous nucleotides that hybridizes to said nucleic acid molecule under stringent conditions, wherein the stringent condition is hybridization in 6X sodium chloride/sodium citrate (SSC) at about 45°C, followed by one or more washes in 0.2 X SCC, 0.1% SDS at 50-65°C, and

determining whether the oligonucleotide binds to said nucleic acid molecule in the sample.

14-23. (canceled)

24. (previously presented) A process for producing a polypeptide comprising culturing the host cell of claim 9 under conditions sufficient for the production of said polypeptide, and recovering said polypeptide from the host cell culture.

25. (previously presented) An isolated polynucleotide consisting of a nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:1.

26. (previously presented) An isolated polynucleotide consisting of a nucleotide sequence set forth in SEQ ID NO:3.

27. (previously presented) A vector according to claim 8, wherein said vector is selected from the group consisting of a plasmid, a virus, and a bacteriophage.

28. (previously presented) A vector according to claim 8, wherein said isolated nucleic acid molecule is inserted into said vector in proper orientation and correct reading frame such that the protein of SEQ ID NO:2 may be expressed by a cell transformed with said vector.

29. (previously presented) A vector according to claim 28, wherein said isolated nucleic acid molecule is operatively linked to a promoter sequence.